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(54) **DUAL INPUT AC/DC/BATTERY OPERATED POWER SUPPLY**

BATTERIEBETRIEBENES SCHALTNETZTEIL MIT AC/DC DOPPELEINGANG

ALIMENTATION ELECTRIQUE EN COURANT ALTERNATIF ET CONTINU PAR BATTERIE A DOUBLE ENTREE

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Description

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention generally relates to the field of power converters, and, more particularly, to a portable, dual input AC and DC to programmable DC output power converter.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] As PC notebooks, PDAs, cell phones and the like, continue to grow in popularity, so too does the need for more low cost, compact, power supplies to power these devices. Today, most manufacturers of mobile devices typically include plug-in power adapters along with these mobile devices to help facilitate their customers' power supply needs.

[0003] However, there exists a need for a power converter that resolves the system management problems associated with carrying all of the different power supply components necessary to power a wide variety of mobile or portable devices. Moreover, such a power converter would advantageously encompass serving the power supply needs of several different mobile devices by supplying a regulated DC output voltage, responsive to either an external AC or external DC input voltage. Also, such a power converter would have power storing capabilities which allow the power converter to deliver a constant uninterrupted DC output voltage to a user-connected mobile device whenever the external input voltages are momentarily cut off.

[0004] Document US 5,621,299 describes a power supply having a AC inputs, a DC input, and batteries. An AC/DC converter converts the AC input to DC. The output of the power supply is DC.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The present invention achieves technical advantages as a power converter delivering a constant, regulated DC output voltage that may be derived distinctly from two separate external input voltages, an AC input voltage or a DC input voltage, and in addition, from a separate, detachable battery pack. The detachable batterypack advantageously allows the power converter to automatically and continuously deliver the regulated DC voltage to the mobile device whenever each external input voltage is unreliable or is temporarily removed. Additionally, the power converter also utilizes a portion of the regulated DC output voltage to conveniently recharge the battery pack during normal operation.

[0006] In one embodiment, the present invention is a power converter comprising a power supply circuit and a selectively removable storage circuit. The power supply circuit includes a pair of input filter circuits, each adapted to filter respective AC and DC input voltages provided to the power supply circuit and providing a pair of filtered output voltages. The power supply circuit also comprises a DC-to-DC converter and an AC-to-DC converter, each providing a DC voltage output. The power supply also further comprises a shared DC circuit receivingly coupled to the respective DC outputs of the DC-to-DC converter and the AC-to-DC converter. The shared DC circuit provides two regulated DC output voltages, of opposite polarities, at two respective output terminals thereof. The shared DC circuit is also adapted to allow users to selectively program the regulated output voltage, via a programmable key, to conveniently match the voltage and current specifications of their mobile devices.

[0007] The detachable battery pack comprises a re-chargeable battery, a battery charger for delivering a charge current to the re-chargeable battery, and a switching circuit comprising a pair of switches and an inverter gate for controlling the charging function of the battery pack. The battery pack is adapted to tap the output terminal of the power supply circuit during normal operation via a common connector plug for recharging. Advantageously, the battery pack can serve as a secondary source of DC input power, in turn, allowing the power supply of the power converter to continuously deliver power to a user-connected device even if each external input voltage is temporarily interrupted or removed.

[0008] The present invention provides a power converter, comprising: a power supply circuit providing a regulated DC output voltage and having first and second circuits, said power supply circuit receiving an AC input voltage and a DC input voltage at respective said first and second circuits and providing, in response thereto, a DC output voltage at a first node; and

a storage circuit selectively coupled to said power supply circuit, said storage circuit storing a secondary DC input voltage,

said storage circuit automatically delivers said secondary DC input voltage to said power supply circuit in response to said AC and DC input voltages being temporarily removed, to generate the regulated DC output voltage being sufficient to power a portable device;

characterized in that:

when a filter circuit senses a received DC or AC voltage, respectively, it generates a power-on signal which is sensed by an inverter gate, said power-on signal triggers a first switch to close and being inverted by said inverter gate causes a second switch to remain in the normally open position, whereby when said power-on signal is not generated said storage circuit delivers said secondary DC input voltage to said power supply circuit in response to said AC and DC input voltages being temporarily removed with the second switch being closed and the first switch being open.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] Advantages of the invention and the specific

embodiments will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art by reference to the following detailed description of preferred embodiments taken in conjunction with the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows an AC/DC input power converter having a detachable battery pack coupled thereto in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2 shows an AC/DC input power converter wherein the detachable back includes multiple stackable rechargeable batteries.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0010] The invention is a multiple input power converter 10 that can be operated from any one of three mutually exclusive and external input power sources: a DC input, an AC input, or a separate, removable battery pack 14. The power converter 10 can generate and deliver a regulated DC voltage output to variety of user-connected mobile devices, such as, laptop computers, cell phones, or PDAs, for example. However, if both of the external AC and DC input voltages are accidentally or intentionally interrupted or removed from converter 10, then the battery pack 14 will serve as a secondary source of input power to power the power converter 12 to deliver an uninterrupted regulated DC voltage. Moreover, the power converter 10 will charge the battery pack 14 with a portion of the same regulated DC output voltage during normal operation so that battery power is available if needed.

[0011] In Figure 1 there is shown the dual input AC/DC power converter 10 comprising the power supply 12 with the physically detachable battery pack 14 coupled thereto in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The power supply 12 includes two input terminals 16 and 18 for receiving the external DC input voltage and the AC input voltage, respectively. The DC input voltage is preferably an external DC voltage, namely, derived from a source such as an auto cigarette lighter plug, or an airline EMPOWER DC plug, and, having a voltage ranging between 5VDC and 15VDC. Likewise, the AC input is preferably an external AC voltage derived from a source such as that found in most homes and business environments, ranging between 112VAC and 230VAC. In a preferred embodiment, the power supply 12 delivers two, regulated DC voltages, at output terminal 22, to a user-connected mobile device coupled thereat.

[0012] In one embodiment, the power supply 12 includes a pair of noise filtering circuits 24 and 26 for filtering each respective input voltage arriving at input terminals 16 and 18. The power supply 12 also includes a DC-to-DC converter circuit 30 which steps up the filtered DC voltage to a voltage of between 15 volts and 24 volts DC and thereafter passes it to a shared DC circuit 34. Similarly, the power supply 12 includes an AC-to-DC converter circuit 32 that converts the filtered AC voltage to a DC signal of between 15volts and 24volts. The output of the AC-to-DC converter 32 is also inputted to the shared DC circuit 34. The voltages exiting the shared DC circuit 34, via terminals 20 and 22, comprise a pair of regulated DC output voltages that users may use to power a variety of different user-connected mobile device(s). Moreover, users of the present invention are able to control the magnitude of the regulated DC voltage output, as well as, the current output via a separately detachable programming key 15.

[0013] The power converter 10 also comprises the separate, detachable battery pack 14, tapping the power supply 12 at respective nodes N1, N2 and N3 via connector plug 50. The battery pack 14 comprises a re-chargeable battery 36, a battery charger 38, and a switching circuit comprising a first switch 40, a second switch 42, and an inverter gate 44.

[0014] The present invention may be configured to operate in one of two different operating modes: first, a direct power mode wherein the power supply 12 generates the regulated DC output voltage by deriving input power from either of the external input voltages provided to respective input terminals 16 and 18; and second, a battery mode, where the power supply 12 provides a similarly regulated DC output voltage which is alternatively derived from the battery 36 of the removable battery pack 14. Preferably, the present invention automatically operates in the battery mode when both of the external input voltages is momentarily interrupted or removed from power supply 12.

[0015] In the direct power mode, the physically attached battery pack 14 is electrically connected to the power supply 12 via node N3, which also feeds the output terminal 22. The battery pack 14 includes the first switch 40 and the second switch 42 with the inverter gate 44 coupled therebetween and with each operating initially from a normally open position, as shown. The battery pack 14 also includes the battery charger 38 and the re-chargeable battery 36.

[0016] In operation, when either filter circuit 24 or 26 senses a received DC or AC voltage, respectively, it generates a power-on signal on line 46 which is sensed by the inverter gate 44. The power-on signal on line 46 triggers the first switch 40 to close. This same power-on signal 46 is inverted by the inverter gate 44 and received by the second switch 42 causing it to remain in the normally open position. Once the first switch 40 is closed, a portion of the regulated DC output voltage provided at node N3 is passed to the battery charger 38 by switch 40. Once energized, the battery charger 38 passes a charge current to the positive electrode of the re-chargeable battery 36 for charging the same. Moreover, since the second switch 42 remains in the normally open position, switch 42 prevents the re-chargeable battery from feeding a battery voltage to node N1, thereby preventing the power supply 12 from receiving additional DC input

power.

[0017] Hence, in the direct power mode, the present invention delivers the regulated DC output voltage, to both the mobile device at terminal 22 and to the battery pack 14. Advantageously, users of the present invention are spared the trouble of purchasing a separate battery pack charger to charge the battery pack 14.

[0018] In the battery mode, i.e. no input AC or DC power being provided to power supply 12, the battery pack 14 automatically functions as a secondary DC input power source. Here, no power-on signal is asserted on line 46 by the power supply 12. As such, the first switch 40 remains in the normally open position, and inverter gate 44 now triggers the second switch 42 to transition from its normally open position to a closed position. As a result, the second switch 42 electrically couples node N1 of the power supply 12 to the positive terminal of the re-chargeable battery 36. Moreover, when the second switch 42 is closed, the re-chargeable battery 36 feeds a DC voltage of between 5 volts and 24 volts to node N1. This input battery voltage at node N1 feeds the input of the DC-to-DC converter 30, which in turn generates a stepped up DC voltage in response thereto and feeds it to the input of the DC shared circuit 34. The shared DC circuit 34 then generates and delivers two regulated DC voltages of between 5 volts and 24 volts, via output terminals 20 and 22, to the user's mobile devices connected thereto. Thus, the battery pack 14 advantageously serves as an alternate DC input source that continually provides a DC input voltage to the power supply 12 even if each external input voltage at respective terminals 16 and 18 are temporarily suspended or removed.

[0019] The power supply 12 automatically reverts back to operating in the direct power mode whenever either external AC or DC input voltage is reestablished to terminals 16 and 18. In reverting back to its direct power mode, the power supply 12 will again generate an internal power on signal on line 46 causing the first switch 40 to close, and switch 42 to open, thereby causing the battery charger 38 to charge the re-chargeable battery 36. As previously described this same power-on signal 46 is inverted by the inverter gate 44 such that the second switch 42 in its normally open position. This effectively disconnects the positive terminal of the re-chargeable battery 36 from node N1, thereby, effectively cutting off battery power from being delivered to the power supply 12.

[0020] Preferably, the inverter gate 44, which is coupled between switches 40 and 42, ensures that each switch is operating in the opposite state of the other. That is, the inverter gate 44 properly deactivates the battery pack 14 to ensure that the power supply 12 is not receiving input power from all three external power sources, simultaneously.

[0021] In alternative embodiments, the battery charger 38 has characteristics to match both the chemistry of the re-chargeable battery 36 such that the battery pack 14 may be comprised of multiple, stacked re-chargeable batteries 52 and 54. As shown in Figure 2, these additional re-chargeable batteries may be adapted to advantageously provide the power supply 12 with added power storing capabilities.

[0022] The numerous innovative teachings of the present applications will be described with particular reference to the presently preferred exemplary embodiments. However, it should be understood that this class of embodiments provides only a few examples of the many advantageous uses and innovative teachings herein. In general, statements made in the specification of the present application do not necessarily delimit any of the various claimed inventions. Moreover, some statements may apply to some inventive features, but not to others.

Claims

1. A power converter (10), comprising:

   a power supply circuit (12) providing a regulated DC output voltage and having first and second circuits, said power supply circuit receiving an AC input voltage and a DC input voltage at respective said first and second circuits and providing, in response thereto, a DC output voltage at a first node (22); and
   a storage circuit (14) selectively coupled to said power supply circuit (12), said storage circuit (14) storing a secondary DC input voltage,
   said storage circuit (14) automatically delivers said secondary DC input voltage to said power supply circuit (12) in response to said AC and DC input voltages being temporarily removed, to generate the regulated DC output voltage being sufficient to power a portable device;
   characterized in that:

      when a filter circuit (24, 26) senses a received DC or AC voltage, respectively, it generates a power-on signal (46) which is sensed by an inverter gate (44), said power-on signal (46) triggers a first switch (40) to close and being inverted by said inverter gate (44) causes a second switch (42) to remain in the normally open position, whereby when said power-on signal is not generated said storage circuit (14) delivers said secondary DC input voltage to said power supply circuit (12) in response to said AC and DC input voltages being temporarily removed with the second switch (42) being closed and the first switch (40) being open.

2. The power converter of Claim 1 wherein said storage circuit (14) includes a battery charger (38) and a re-chargeable battery (36), said battery charger (38) being selectively coupled to the first node of said

power supply circuit (12) in response to either said AC input voltage or said DC input voltage being provided to said power supply circuit (12), charging said re-chargeable battery (36) via a portion of said regulated DC output voltage.

3. The power converter of Claim 1 wherein said storage circuit (14) is selectively couplable to, and removable from, said power supply circuit (12).

4. The power converter of Claim 1 wherein said first circuit comprises a AC-to-DC converter (32), wherein said AC-to-DC converter (32) is adapted to provide a DC output voltage of between 15VDC and 24VDC.

5. The power converter of Claim 1 wherein said second circuit comprises a DC-to-DC boost converter (30), wherein said DC-to-DC boost converter (30) is adapted to provide a DC output voltage of between 15VDC and 24VDC.

6. The power converter of Claim 1 wherein said power supply circuit (12) provides both a first and second regulated DC output voltage.

7. The power converter of Claim 1 wherein said storage circuit (14) comprises a battery pack having a re-chargeable battery (36), said power supply circuit (12) providing said regulated DC output voltage in response to receiving a charge voltage from said re-chargeable battery (36).

8. The power converter of Claim 3 wherein said power supply circuit (12) is selectively coupled to said storage circuit (14) at a plurality of different nodes (N1,N2,N3) via a common connector (50).

9. The power converter of Claim 1 wherein said power supply circuit (12) is adapted to provide a pair of regulated DC output voltages of between 5VDC and 24VDC.

10. The power converter of Claim 1 wherein said power supply circuit (12) is adapted to operate in a direct power mode whenever either said AC and DC input voltages is provided to said first and second circuits and such that the storage circuit (14) is not delivering said secondary DC input voltage to said power supply circuit.

11. The power converter of Claim 1 wherein said power supply circuit (12) is adapted to automatically operate in a battery mode from the storage circuit (14) whenever said AC and DC input voltages are not provided to the converter such that the regulated DC output voltage is substantially uninterrupted when the converter transitions from operating from the AC input voltage or the DC input voltage to operating from the storage circuit (14).

12. The power converter of Claim 1 wherein said storage circuit (14) is configured to incorporate a plurality of stacked batteries (52,54).

Patentansprüche

1. Stromwandler (10), umfassend:

eine Stromzufuhrschaltung (12), welche eine geregelte Gleichstrom-Ausgabespannung bereitstellt und eine erste und eine zweite Schaltung aufweist, wobei die Stromzufuhrschaltung eine Wechselstrom-Eingabespannung und eine Gleichstrom-Eingabespannung jeweils an der ersten und der zweiten Schaltung erhält und als Antwort darauf an einem ersten Knoten (22) eine Gleichstrom-Ausgabespannung bereitstellt; und
eine Speicherschaltung (14), welche selektiv mit der Stromzufuhrschaltung (12) verbunden ist, wobei die Speicherschaltung (14) eine sekundäre Gleichstrom-Eingabespannung speichert, wobei die Speicherschaltung (14) der Stromzufuhrschaltung (12) als Antwort darauf, dass die Wechselstrom- und Gleichstrom-Eingabespannungen vorübergehend entfernt werden, automatisch die sekundäre Gleichstrom-Eingabespannung zuführt, um die geregelte Gleichstrom-Ausgabespannung zu erzeugen, die zur Stromversorgung einer tragbaren Vorrichtung ausreichend ist;

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass,
wenn eine Filterschaltung (24, 26) jeweils eine empfangene Gleichstrom- oder Wechselstrom-Spannung erfasst, diese ein Stromzufuhr-AN-Signal (46) erzeugt, welches von einem Inverter-Gatter (44) erfasst wird, wobei das Stromzufuhr-AN-Signal (46) einen ersten Schalter (40) zum Schließen triggert und das Invertieren durch das Inverter-Gatter (44) veranlasst, dass ein zweiter Schalter (42) in der normalerweise offenen Stellung bleibt, wodurch dann, wenn das Stromzufuhr-AN-Signal nicht erzeugt wird, die Speicherschaltung (14) als Antwort darauf, dass die Wechselstrom- und Gleichstrom-Eingabespannungen vorübergehend entfernt sind, der Stromzufuhrschaltung (12) die sekundäre Gleichstrom-Eingabespannung zuführt, wobei der zweite Schalter (42) geschlossen ist und der erste Schalter (40) offen ist.

2. Stromwandler nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Speicherschaltung (14) ein Batterieladegerät (38) und eine wiederaufladbare Batterie (36) enthält, wobei das Batterieladegerät (38) als Antwort darauf, dass ent-

weder die Wechselstrom-Eingabespannung oder die Gleichstrom-Eingabespannung der Stromzufuhrschaltung (12) zugeführt wird, selektiv mit dem ersten Knoten der Stromzufuhrschaltung (12) verbunden ist, wobei die wiederaufladbare Batterie (36) über einen Anteil der geregelten Gleichstrom-Ausgabespannung geladen wird.

3. Stromwandler nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Speicherschaltung (14) selektiv mit der Stromzufuhrschaltung (12) verbindbar und von dieser entfernbar ist.

4. Stromwandler nach Anspruch 1, wobei die erste Schaltung einen Wechselstrom-zu-Gleichstrom-Wandler (32) umfasst, wobei der Wechselstrom-zu-Gleichstrom-Wandler (32) angepasst ist, eine Gleichstrom-Ausgabespannung von zwischen 15V Gleichspannung und 24V Gleichspannung bereitzustellen.

5. Stromwandler nach Anspruch 1, wobei die zweite Schaltung einen Gleichstrom-zu-Gleichstrom-Verstärkungswandler (30) umfasst, wobei der Gleichstrom-zu-Gleichstrom-Verstärkungswandler (30) angepasst ist, eine Gleichstrom-Ausgabespannung von zwischen 15V Gleichspannung und 24V Gleichspannung bereitzustellen.

6. Stromwandler nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Stromzufuhrschaltung (12) sowohl eine erste als auch eine zweite geregelte Gleichstrom-Ausgabespannung bereitstellt.

7. Stromwandler nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Speicherschaltung (14) ein Batteriepack umfasst, welcher eine wiederaufladbare Batterie (36) aufweist, wobei die Stromzufuhrschaltung (12) die geregelte Gleichstrom-Ausgabespannung als Antwort darauf bereitstellt, dass sie eine Ladungsspannung von der wiederaufladbaren Batterie (36) empfängt.

8. Stromwandler nach Anspruch 3, wobei die Stromzufuhrschaltung (12) über einen gemeinsamen Verbinder (50) selektiv an einer Mehrzahl von unterschiedlichen Knoten (N1, N2, N3) mit der Speicherschaltung (14) verbunden ist.

9. Stromwandler nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Stromzufuhrschaltung (12) angepasst ist, ein Paar von geregelten Gleichstrom-Ausgabespannungen von zwischen 5V Gleichstrom und 24V Gleichstrom bereitzustellen.

10. Stromwandler nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Stromzufuhrschaltung (12) angepasst ist, um immer dann in einem Direkt-Strommodus betrieben zu werden, wenn der ersten und der zweiten Schaltung entweder die Wechselstrom- oder die Gleichstrom-Eingabespannung zugeführt wird, so dass die Speicherschaltung (14) der Stromzufuhrschaltung nicht die sekundäre Gleichstrom-Eingabespannung zuführt.

11. Stromwandler nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Stromzufuhrschaltung (12) angepasst ist, um immer dann automatisch in einem Batteriemodus von der Speicherschaltung (14) betrieben zu werden, wenn dem Wandler die Wechselstrom- und Gleichstrom-Eingabespannungen nicht zugeführt werden, so dass die geregelte Gleichstrom-Ausgabespannung im Wesentlichen nicht unterbrochen wird, wenn der Wandler von einem Betrieb von der Wechselstrom-Eingabespannung oder der Gleichstrom-Eingabespannung zu einem Betrieb von der Speicherschaltung (14) übergeht.

12. Stromwandler nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Speicherschaltung (14) derart aufgebaut ist, dass sie eine Mehrzahl von gestapelten Batterien (52, 54) umfasst.

Revendications

1. Convertisseur d'énergie (10), comportant :

un circuit (12) d'alimentation en énergie produisant une tension continue régulée de sortie et ayant des premier et second circuits, ledit circuit d'alimentation en énergie recevant une tension alternative d'entrée et une tension continue d'entrée auxdits premier et second circuits respectifs et produisant, en réponse à celles-ci, une tension continue de sortie à un premier noeud (22) ; et

un circuit d'emmagasinage (14) couplé sélectivement audit circuit (12) d'alimentation en énergie, ledit circuit d'emmagasinage (14) emmagasinant une tension continue secondaire d'entrée,

ledit circuit d'emmagasinage (14) délivrant automatiquement ladite tension continue secondaire d'entrée audit circuit d'alimentation en énergie (12) en réponse à la suppression temporaire desdites tensions alternative et continue d'entrée, afin de générer une tension continue régulée de sortie suffisante pour alimenter un dispositif portable ;

caractérisé en ce que :

lorsqu'un circuit de filtre (24, 26) capte une tension continue ou alternative reçue, respectivement, il génère un signal sous tension (46) qui est capté par une porte à inverseur (44), ledit signal sous tension (46) déclenche la fermeture d'un premier commutateur (40) et, en étant inversé par ladite

porte à inverseur (44), fait rester un second commutateur (42) dans la position normalement ouverte, grâce à quoi, lorsque ledit signal sous tension n'est pas généré, ledit circuit d'emmagasinage (14) délivre ladite tension continue secondaire d'entrée audit circuit d'alimentation en énergie (12) en réponse à la suppression temporaire desdites tensions alternative et continue d'entrée alors que le second commutateur est fermé et que le premier commutateur (40) est ouvert.

2. Convertisseur d'énergie selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit circuit d'emmagasinage (14) comprend un chargeur (38) de batterie et une batterie rechargeable (36), ledit chargeur (38) de batterie étant couplé sélectivement au premier noeud dudit circuit (12) d'alimentation en énergie en réponse à l'application audit circuit (12) d'alimentation en énergie de ladite tension alternative d'entrée ou de ladite tension continue d'entrée, chargeant ladite batterie rechargeable (36) par l'intermédiaire d'une partie de ladite tension continue régulée de sortie.

3. Convertisseur d'énergie selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit circuit d'emmagasinage (14) peut être sélectivement couplé audit circuit d'alimentation en énergie (12) et en être enlevé.

4. Convertisseur d'énergie selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit premier circuit comprend un convertisseur alternatif-continu (32), dans lequel ledit convertisseur alternatif-continu (32) est conçu pour produire une tension continue de sortie comprise entre 15 volts et 24 volts.

5. Convertisseur d'énergie selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit second circuit comprend un convertisseur amplificateur continu-continu (30), dans lequel ledit amplificateur continu-continu (30) est conçu pour produire une tension continue de sortie comprise entre 15 volts et 24 volts.

6. Convertisseur d'énergie selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit circuit d'alimentation en énergie (12) produit à la fois des première et seconde tensions continues et régulées de sortie.

7. Convertisseur d'énergie selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit circuit d'emmagasinage (14) comprend un bloc d'alimentation ayant une batterie rechargeable (36), ledit circuit d'alimentation en énergie (12) produisant ladite tension continue et régulée de sortie en réponse à la réception d'une tension de charge provenant de ladite batterie rechargeable (36).

8. Convertisseur d'énergie selon la revendication 3, dans lequel ledit circuit d'alimentation en énergie (12) est couplé sélectivement audit circuit d'emmagasinage (14) en plusieurs noeuds différents (N1, N2, N3) par l'intermédiaire d'un connecteur commun (50).

9. Convertisseur d'énergie selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit circuit d'alimentation en énergie (12) est conçu pour produire deux tensions continues régulées de sortie comprises entre 5 volts et 24 volts.

10. Convertisseur d'énergie selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit circuit d'alimentation en énergie (12) est conçu pour fonctionner dans un mode en énergie directe dans lequel l'une desdites tensions alternative et continue d'entrée est appliquée auxdits premier et second circuits et de façon telle que le circuit d'emmagasinage (14) ne délivre pas ladite tension continue secondaire d'entrée audit circuit d'alimentation en énergie.

11. Convertisseur d'énergie selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit circuit (12) d'alimentation en énergie est conçu pour fonctionner automatiquement dans un mode en batterie à partir du circuit d'emmagasinage (14) lorsque lesdites tensions alternative et continu d'entrée ne sont pas appliquée au convertisseur de façon que la tension continue régulée de sortie soit sensiblement ininterrompue lorsque le convertisseur passe d'un fonctionnement basé sur la tension alternative d'entrée ou la tension continue d'entrée à un fonctionnement basé sur le circuit d'emmagasinage (14).

12. Convertisseur d'énergie selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit circuit d'emmagasinage (14) est configuré pour comprendre plusieurs batteries superposées (52, 54).

FIG. 1

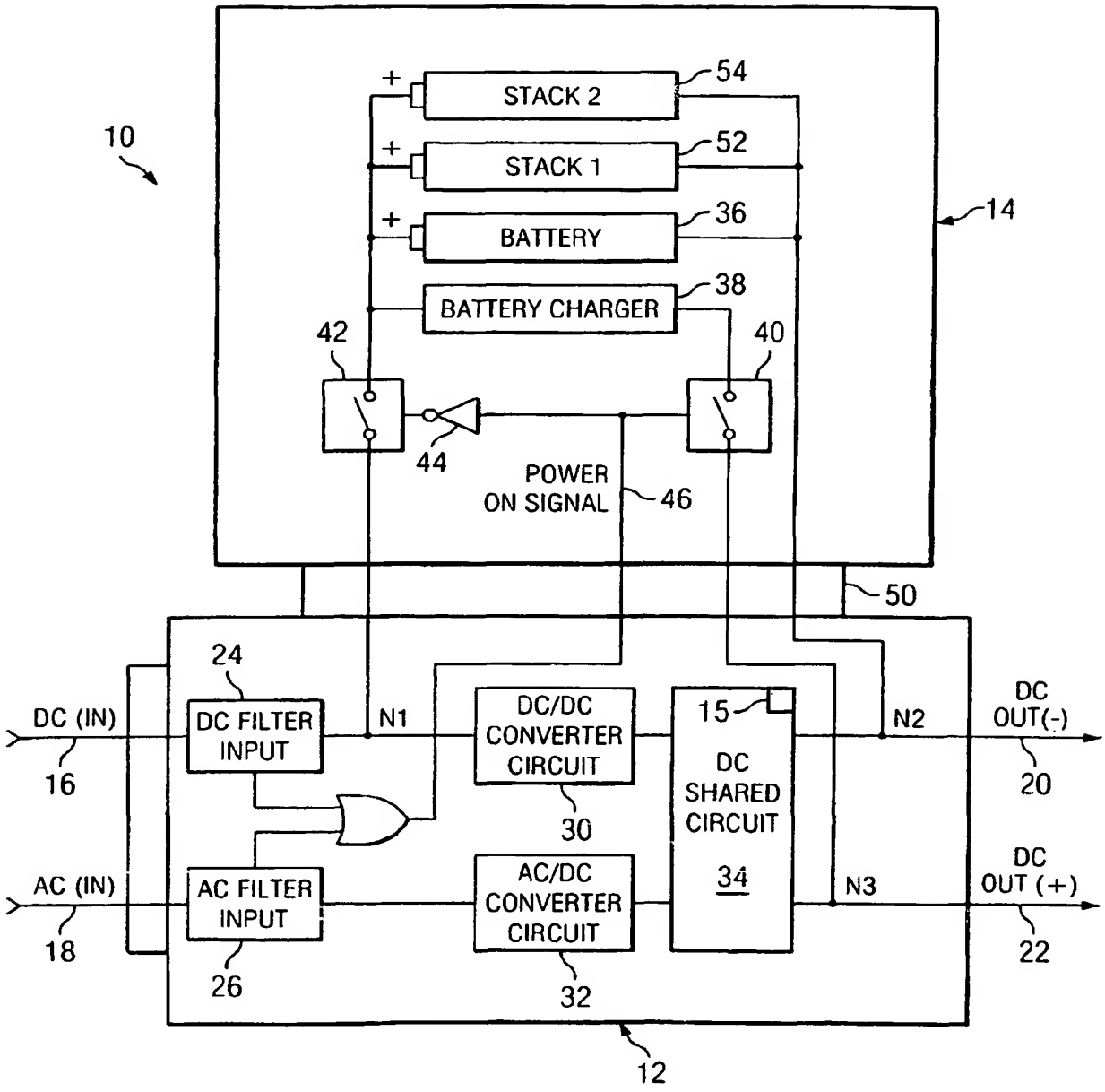
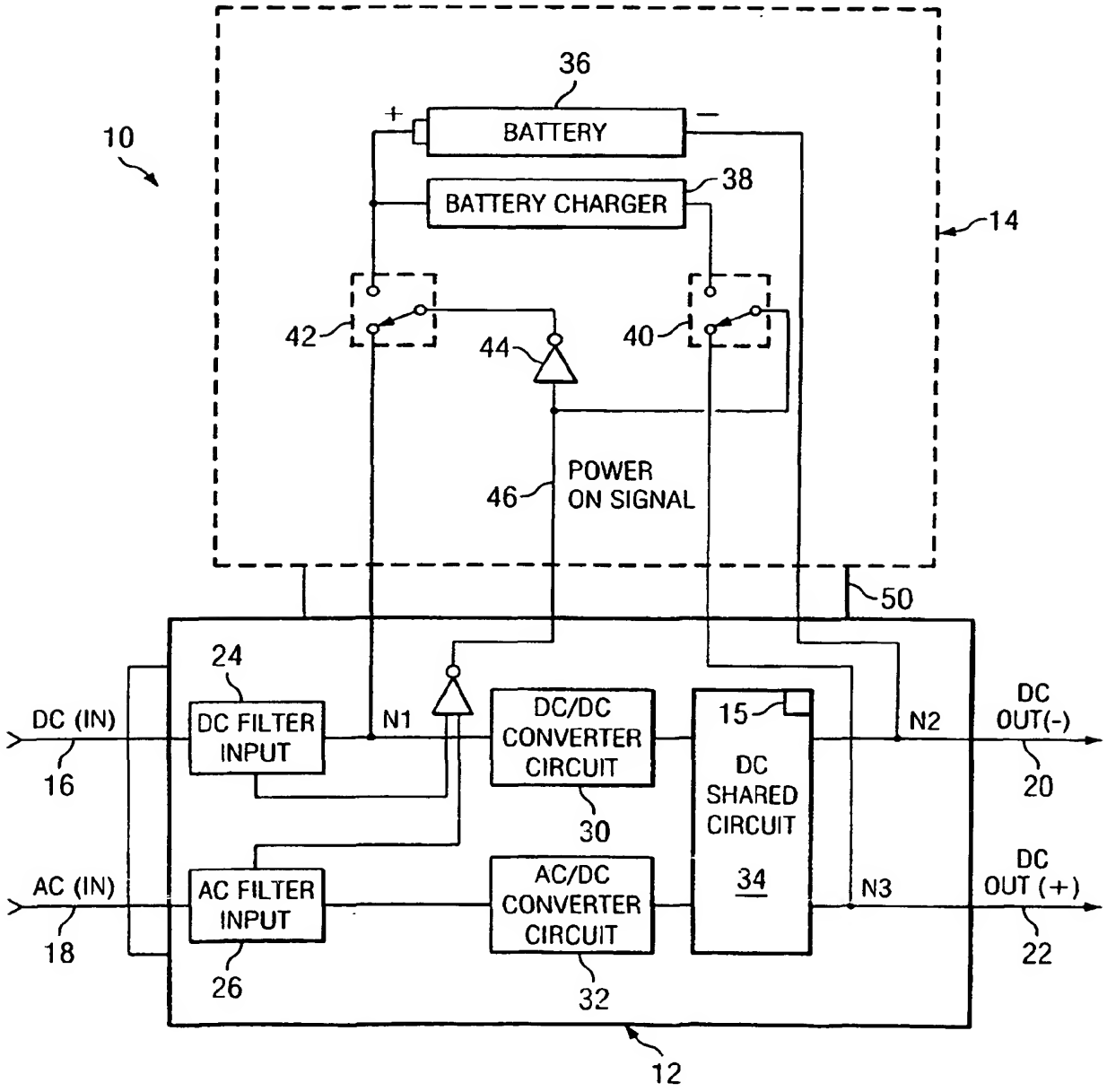

10
14
STACK 2
54
STACK 1
52
BATTERY
36
BATTERY CHARGER
38
42
40
44
POWER ON SIGNAL
46
50
24
DC (IN)
16
DC FILTER INPUT
N1
DC/DC CONVERTER CIRCUIT
30
15
DC SHARED CIRCUIT
34
N2
DC OUT(-)
20
AC (IN)
18
AC FILTER INPUT
26
AC/DC CONVERTER CIRCUIT
32
N3
DC OUT (+)
22
12

FIG. 2


10
36
BATTERY
+
−
38
BATTERY CHARGER
14
42
40
44
46
POWER
ON SIGNAL
50
24
DC (IN)
16
DC FILTER
INPUT
N1
DC/DC
CONVERTER
CIRCUIT
30
15
DC
SHARED
CIRCUIT
34
N2
DC
OUT(-)
20
AC (IN)
18
AC FILTER
INPUT
26
AC/DC
CONVERTER
CIRCUIT
32
N3
DC
OUT (+)
22
12